

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00194 111027Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0194

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US
SUBJECT: CCK AS PRESIDENT - IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S.

REF: TAIPEI 0153

1. IN BRIEF PRIVATE CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH PREMIER CHIANG FOLLOWING CODEL STRATTON CALL, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HIM IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT HONG KONG MEETING HIGHLIGHTS. HE INQUIRED IN PARTICULAR ABOUT MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND AGREED THAT PROBABLY BOTH PRC AND USSR ANXIOUS NOT TO SEE EXPANSION OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

2. WHEN I REFERRED TO HIS PROBABLE ELEVATION TO PRESIDENCY, CCK MADE PREDICTABLE COMMENTS ABOUT HIS RELUCTANCE BUT ADDED THAT WE COULD COUNT ON HIS CONTINUING FIRM FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S. IN THAT ROLE.

3. PREMIER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, JAMES SOONG, TOLD ME AS I WAS DEPARTING THAT DECISION ON PRESIDENCY HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN INCUMBENT PRESIDENT YEN AND CCK AND THAT FORMER WAS ANXIOUS TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. SOONG ADDED THAT CCK HAS BEEN AWARE OF THE NEED FOR OTHERS TO MOVE INTO HIGH POSITIONS (E.G. PREMIERSHIP) TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TOP LEADERSHIP WHEN
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NECESSARY AND HE IMPLIED THIS WAS MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR PREMIER'S WILLINGNESS TO MOVE UP TO PRESIDENCY NOW (SEE REFTEL).
UNGER

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